



Atty. Docket No. 0503-1047

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Christophe BERTEZ et al.

CONFIRMATION NO. 6760

Serial No. 09/755,053

GROUP 1725

Filed January 8, 2001

Examiner Jonathan J. Johnson

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
THE LASER CUTTING OF STAINLESS
STEEL, COATED STEEL, ALUMINUM
OR ALUMINUM ALLOYS WITH A
BIFOCAL OPTICAL COMPONENT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the first Office action on the merits, please
amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claim 1 as follows:

1. A method of cutting the workpiece made of stainless
steel, coated steel, aluminum or aluminum alloy, comprising the
steps of:

providing at least one transparent or reflecting
optical means for focusing at least one laser beam, comprising a
nozzle;

providing at least one assist gas to the nozzle under
pressure; and

cutting the workpiece with the laser beam;

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